

Labor Day and Chusok Safety Awareness

On September 5th, we celebrate Labor Day as a tribute to the contributions all Americans have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. September is also a time Koreans celebrate their thanksgiving known as Chusok, an annual autumn harvest festival where Koreans travel to their traditional homes to visit their ancestors' gravesites and celebrate the bounty of nature.

Labor Day and Chusok also mark the end of the summer season. Many people will participate in various outdoor activities to enjoy the well-deserved time off. As we take time to enjoy these two holidays, let us reaffirm our commitment to protecting our most valuable assets - our Soldiers, Civilians, and Families.

I solicit your support and that of your chain of command in ensuring these upcoming holidays remain free of needless accidents and other incidents. I charge all commanders and supervisors to emphasize the consequences of alcohol abuse, the use of caution in sports and recreational activities, and the importance of obeying road restrictions due to greatly increased Chusok holiday traffic. Each of us has a responsibility to reinforce and follow the buddy system and look out for one another.

We are proud of what you do as part of the Eighth Army Team. Let's ensure there are zero accidents or acts of misconduct during this holiday period. Remember, we are role models for our nation here in the Republic of Korea.

Pacific Victors!

RICHARD E. MERRITT

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Command Sergeant Major

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Commanding